

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending.

Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent on another rejected base claims but is considered to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4 and 8-11 are rejected over prior art.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 5 and claim 5 has been cancelled. Therefore, claim 1 should now be allowable. Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-11 are amended to depend from claim 1. Therefore, the claims should be allowable.

New claims 12-16 depend from allowable claim 1 (original claim 5) and also should be allowable.

A new independent claim 17 is added. The claim calls for the thermosetting resin layer to be formed on the outer surface of the aggregate and a thermoplastic resin layer on the thermosetting resin layer. The advantageous product is neither found nor suggested in any of the cited prior art.

Hussain, U.S. 6,528,157 discloses a resin coated proppant with fibers. In Sinclair, U.S. 5,422,183 the aggregate is coated with two layers of the same resin, see column 5, line 50 to column 6, line 53. Accordingly, the product of new claim 17 patentably distinguishes over these references.

The other art cited has been considered and is not deemed pertinent.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Prompt and favorable action is requested.

Dated: March 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

S. Peter Ludwig

Registration No.: 25,351

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant